THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

Leadership Official

• ASST. SECTION MANAGER • SECTION EMERG. COORDINATOR • SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER • AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR • BULLETIN MANAGER • EMERGENCY COORDINATOR • DISTRICT EMERG. COORDINATOR • NET MANAGER • OO COORDINATOR • PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR • STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON • TECHNICAL COORDINATOR • ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER • NTS OFFICIAL • QSL BUREAU MANAGER

HELLO FELLOW AMATEURS:

This is a lengthy letter but we need you to give it serious consideration. Thanks!

Brown County Emergency Government Director Mary Oja has contacted us with a special request for help.

As you know the coming of the New Year 2000 is potentially problematic. Computers used by many public safety agencies, utility companies, and municipalities are subject to possible failure when the New Year arrives. You've probably heard news stories that tell of disasters that could result because of these failures. Utilities and other safety and emergency agencies have been diligently working to upgrade their equipment, and they feel fairly confident that we will not be seriously affected by the year 2000 arrival. However, human beings and their machinery are not perfect. As much as we'd like to say that nothing will happen, in the interest of public safety and emergency preparedness we must be concerned about any potential problems. For that reason, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has directed state, county, and local officials to utilize amateur radio in their Y2K emergency plans.**

As amateur radio emergency coordinators, it is especially important to us to see our local amateurs succeed in the mission of emergency communications support. Our county emergency government is eager to have us succeed as well, and has pledged their full support, including emergency equipment as needed.

That is why we are making a special appeal to you. **We need a large contingent of amateurs who can commit to two events, a drill on September 8, and the real thing on December 31.** An overview meeting will be conducted on Monday evening, August 23 to coordinate net activities, and offer some training for newer hams. We are also looking for help from veteran amateurs who may not have been active in the emergency area of ham radio for some time. It will be important that we put our best foot forward, and that all field operators are skilled and able. Once again we have no idea of the possible extent of this event.

If you have ever operated during an ARES drill, participated in SKYWARN, or worked on Field Day, you know the special camaraderie that hams enjoy during these activities. This is the ideal opportunity to continue or discover this gratifying aspect of the hobby. Yes, Part 97 tells us that we should participate in emergency operations, and that is a good reason to do so. However, the rewards you get from helping your friends and neighbors during times of emergency are a better reason. If you need more reason, consider yourself part of an exciting world event, and ring in the New Year with your ham radio colleagues.

County officials request that we have amateur operators on hand at hospitals, police and fire departments, and at critical facilities throughout the county on December 31. Wisconsin Public Service has also asked for our assistance, and the county will be operating from the WPS information center.

Participating amateurs need to supply a radio, portable antenna, and if possible, plentiful battery power. Our primary operations will be on VHF, but UHF and HF will be used as well. Brown County facilities should all have generator power but we should not rely on that necessarily being available to us. They will provide a limited number of heavy-duty deep cycle batteries to those who need them for some locations, and we are pursuing donations for more equipment. If any of you have extra equipment we can borrow, please let us know. The full nature of the potential emergency is not known, so it is best to be well prepared in every way we can.

To prepare for this operation, there will be a drill on September 8. After a preparatory meeting for us at **7pm** where you will receive ID's to clear you for any restricted areas, you can go to your designated post if it is being manned, check out the floor plan for your operating/equipment needs, and introduce yourself to the people who will be working with you. After that, you can either stay at your station or return home, and monitor. The net will be open after the midnight hour to accommodate any problems that may occur when **9/9/99** rolls over.

Mary Oja asks that we each work at the same post for both the September drill and the New Year's Eve event. **We need your presence on both dates**. On New Year's Eve we will be working from 10pm to 2am.

Enclosed you will find an ARES registration form. Even if you are already an ARES member we need to update our records. Please fill it out completely and legibly, particularly your operating and equipment capacities. If you have extra equipment you feel we can use, please list it on the back of the form. Cut the bottom of this letter and indicate if you are interested in helping for Y2K. If you wish to skip the Y2K event but still wish to be an ARES member please indicate that as well. If you can't make Y2K, consider loaning equipment if you can. If you are not interested at all in emergency work please let us know that too so we can remove you from our mailing list. **Please return the ARES form and the response in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope by AUGUST 13, 1999.**

We realize that asking for a commitment for New Year's Eve may seem like a lot to ask, but we will not be alone, there are going to be many people who are going to be on alert that night. Think of the many hours of enjoyment that amateur radio has brought you. This is one way to "give something back".

Please join us in helping with this important work. It will be a great opportunity to get our equipment, nets, personnel, and emergency operating skills in order, and help our county and its residents. If you have questions or input, **let us know**.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kolbusz – N9VJL - ARES EC - Email: - -RisaVJL @ aol.com - - 497-1807
Andy Nemec – KB9ALN - SKYWARN EC - Email: - -KB9ALN @ juno.com - - 435-6625

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August 3, 1999

To All Amateurs:

The meeting scheduled for August 23 regarding the Y2K plan noted in the 2 page letter you recently received has to be changed due to the Packers Monday Night Football game.

We have rescheduled it for Thursday, August 26 at 7pm. It will be held at the Wisconsin Public Service downtown corporate office building.

If you have not already sent in your RSVP, please note on it that you are available for the August 26 date.

Thanks!!

Lisa Kolbusz N9VJL

BROWN COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

300 EAST WALNUT STREET
GREEN BAY WI 54301
920-448-4270
920-448-4206

DATE: August 4, 1999

TO: HAM RADIO OPERATORS

FROM: **Mary Oja; Office of Emergency Management**

RE: Y2K Exercise September 8, 1999

By now you have heard of Y2K and its possible effects to Public Safety. As part of our Contingency Plan for Communications, it is our hope that we can count on the Ham Radio community to help us keep the public safe if any communication problems should arise as a result of Y2K.

Our Contingency Plan calls for 40-50 ham operators with portable equipment to staff locations throughout the County on December 31, 1999. In order to facilitate this strategy, we have scheduled a drill on September 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Wisconsin Public Service in downtown Green Bay. Recently you received a letter from Lisa and Andy, your Emergency Coordinators, detailing your operations more fully. Please send your response to them as soon as possible.

Again, we need your help in the event that our communications system would fail due to Y2K. We certainly appreciate your time, equipment and continued support in our Brown County Emergency Operations.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Oja

Mary Oja
Director/OEM